

TIMES .10

Vol 1 Number 4
JUNE/July 1994



YOUR MAGAZINE of CHOICE



Swingin'

TIMES .10

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June/July 1994

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Edmonton, Alberta

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From the Editor

It was twenty-five years ago this month that the now infamous riots took place in New York. The Stonewall riots marked the beginning of a long and tough battle against bigotry and prejudice. We in Alberta know that the battle is still raging on the in the minds of right wing television evangelists who have dug themselves deep into our provincial government and local media. The insanity of their constant lies are heard everyday on their local and provincial talk shows. Twisted minds that cannot or will not differentiate between and simple truth and sensationalistic myths. One local talk show host who was granted the position by his father actually said that the entire AIDS issue is not relevant to the heterosexual community. It is obvious that he is not aware of the 15 million heterosexuals worldwide who currently have AIDS or HIV. He and his band of clowns now in the legislature might be wise to travel beyond the borders of this province to find some real truths.

Our recent display of constant lies comes from the ever "godlike" figure of Ralph the self satisfying King. What would he know about pain when he sits back earning money far beyond his level of intelligence. He might have told us that when he sits with the peace pipe in one hand he has a gun in the other. The economic spin of his most recent budget shows that he has no knowledge of macro-economics spin. Perhaps he might save us all a lot of money if he pulled the plug on that lake down on the Getty farm. He, has shown his leadership by handing over the recent court decision on Equal rights for Gays and Lesbian to his "nut cracker" suite of cabinet ministers. It was no surprise when the rural pumpkins appealed the ruling. Imagine, running the two largest cities on the prairies from a rural farmhouse. That is the reality of our current situation here in Alberta.

So it is the time of the season for all of us to get involved with the summer fun. We must dismiss the government for this short spell and find forgiveness for their ignorance. It is not wise to expect much from a government drunk on power and "wisdom" from a few lines taken from a book written five millennium ago.

There are plenty of good things happening this summer here in Edmonton. The month of June is filled with Pride events and a week long celebration beginning June 17. Remember as you travel around the city this summer to support our advertisers. They are the front runners committed to serving you in our community. Reader... read on....

TIMES .10

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News on Aids

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National AIDS Clearinghouse makes available this information as a public service only. Providing this information does not constitute endorsement by the CDC, the CDC Clearinghouse, or any other organization. Reproduction of this text is encouraged; however, copies may not be sold, and the CDC Clearinghouse should be cited as the source of this information. Copyright 1993, Information, Inc., Bethesda, MD

"Ivory Coast AIDS Center Takes Practical Turn" Reuters

U.S.-funded AIDS researchers in Ivory Coast—which has the highest reported rate of HIV infection in West Africa—are shifting their focus from studying the disease to determining what can be done, in the absence of a cure, to alleviate its effects. Most African patients are unable to access the expensive treatments available in Europe or the United States but, according to Greenberg, research is continuing into administering drugs to prevent development of the most common conditions which kill AIDS patients. The consensus is that education is the key to fighting the disease in Africa, which accounts for nearly 10 million of the 15 million infected people worldwide, according to World Health Organization statistics.

"Botanists Study Philippines Plants" United Press International

Botanists from around the globe have convened in Texas for a three-day workshop to plan the final phase of an inventory of plants in the Philippines, where undiscovered potential cures for AIDS and other diseases are near extinction. Scientists calculate that roughly 2,500 square miles of undisturbed forest remain in the Philippines, and much of that is jeopardized by population growth, agriculture, and industry. "Some of these endangered species could hold the secret to curing AIDS or other diseases," says Dr. S.H. Sohmer, director of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, which is hosting the workshop. He says that the project has already screened hundreds of species for AIDS and 60 types of cancer.

"Annual Walk Urges AIDS Education" St. Louis Post-Dispatch

St. Louis Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. on Sunday joined other concerned citizens and local celebrities for the fifth annual "From All Walks of Life" fund-raiser for AIDS education. Participants trekked three miles around Forest Park, sharing prayers, collecting cash pledges, and enjoying the food and entertainment. "I know AIDS is still controversial. It shouldn't be discussed in front of children. It shouldn't be discussed in polite company," Bosley told the crowd. "Well, it's time to stop being polite—our fathers and our sisters and our children are dying of AIDS. We must respond with more than quiet whispers." The diverse group raised more than \$45,000 by noon.

News From the Battlefront



"A Novel Technique Fights AIDS Virus From Inside Cells" Philadelphia Inquirer

Using a novel technique of gene therapy, researchers at Thomas Jefferson University have discovered how to virtually halt HIV's multiplication inside human cells. While antibodies usually prevent infection by binding to viruses outside of cells, this new method involves creating genetically-engineered antibodies that fight the disease inside infected cells. The Jefferson scientists targeted one of 10 known HIV genes called the Rev, which directs production of a protein that is essential for the virus to multiply in human cells. The researchers induced mice to produce the antibody to the Rev protein, then cloned the gene responsible for producing that antibody. They created a fragment of the gene by clipping out the two tips of the Y-shaped antibody and linking them together with another molecule. The synthetic gene fragment was then inserted into human cells, which were exposed to massive amounts of HIV. Although the cells became infected, viral reproduction was maintained at dramatically low levels, according to the researchers. Dr. Roger J. Pomerantz, head of the study, said he expects to seek federal approval this summer to test this novel approach in human subjects. If approved, a small safety trial could begin later this year.

"Red Tape Blocking Occupancy" Richmond Times-Dispatch

Two homes built by the Richmond AIDS Ministry to house AIDS patients have been completed since last month, but occupancy has been delayed by red tape—which has become even stickier due to nearby homeowners who oppose the AIDS residences. "There's a very painful side to this," says Harry Davis, RAM's director of development. "There are people who have been waiting and hoping—and even living—for this place to open. And they're not going to make it." Although the Forest Hill-Bliley Road Neighborhood Association was unsuccessful in halting construction of the homes, which each accommodate eight patients, it has been key in derailing legislation that would have paved the way for the homes to be granted a licensing exemption. Those opposed say they are not against providing housing for AIDS patients, they just don't think such housing should be located in their neighborhoods.

"Scientists Recommend New AIDS Drug" Baltimore Sun

An advisory committee to the Food and Drug Administration last week recommended that the government approve a new drug to treat HIV, but with strong warnings that doctors still do not know enough about the medicine to say who should take it. The panel of scientists said that Stavudine, or d4T, probably has some benefit over the three existing AIDS drugs, but could not say precisely who would benefit, how safe the drug is, or whether the manufacturer is on the right track to answer these and other questions. The drug seems to help boost the immunity of HIV patients while creating fewer side effects than other drugs, according to Bristol-Myers Squibb.

"New AIDS Treatment Acts on 'Resting' Cells—Researcher" Reuters

A new HIV treatment unveiled this week is more promising than previous ones because it acts on inactive or "resting" cells, according to Dr. Jorge Vila, the doctor leading the researcher. "Antiviral drugs like AZT ... are not as efficient in humans as they are 'in vitro,'" Vila told local Argentine newspaper Pagina 12. "We believe that this is because the cells on which they are tested are active." In humans, 95 percent of the cells affected by HIV are "resting" ones, he said. A team of researchers headed by Vila reported last week that test-tube experiments with a combination of a new drug, DAH, and ddI, eliminated HIV from "resting" lymphocyte blood cells.

Deceased: Gerard K. Robson

On April 4, 1994 at the home of his parents in Squamish, B.C., Gerard K. Robson formerly of Sunderland, England; Inuvik, N.W.T.; Vancouver and Edmonton passed away peacefully with his family at his side, from an AIDS related illness. Gerard, a long time French teacher and travel consultant, had travelled the world and always had a few stories to tell... especially at a great party. Gerard will always be lovingly remembered for his boundless generosity, his ability to make many life-long friends, his intelligence and wit. He is survived by his parents (Denise and Keran); a sister (Claire), a brother (John Martin) and many close friends. We all miss you Gerard.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION HIV/AIDS PREVENTION NATIONAL AIDS HOTLINE BULLETIN

Research has revealed a great deal of valuable medical, scientific, and public health information about the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). The ways in which HIV can be transmitted have been clearly identified. Unfortunately, some widely dispersed information does not reflect the conclusions of scientific findings.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides the following information to help correct a few commonly held misperceptions about HIV.

Transmission HIV is spread by sexual contact with an infected person, by needle-sharing among injecting drug users, or, less commonly (and now very rarely in countries where blood is screened for HIV antibodies), through transfusions of infected blood or blood clotting factors. In the health-care setting, workers have been infected with HIV after being stuck with needles containing HIV-infected blood or, less frequently, after infected blood gets into the workers bloodstream through an open cut or splashes into a mucous membrane (e.g., eyes or inside of the nose).

There has been only one demonstrated instance of patients being infected by a healthcare worker; this involved HIV transmission from an infected dentist to six patients. Investigations have been completed involving more than 22,000 patients of 63 HIV-infected doctors and dentists, and no other cases of this type of transmission have been identified.

Some people fear that HIV might be transmitted in other ways; however, no scientific evidence to support any of these fears has been found. If HIV were being transmitted through other routes (for example, through air or insects), the pattern of reported AIDS cases would be much different from what has been observed, and cases would be occurring much more frequently in persons who report no identified risk for infection. The following paragraphs specifically address some of the more common misperceptions about HIV transmission.

HIV in the Environment

Scientists and medical authorities agree that HIV does not survive well in the environment, making the possibility of environmental transmission remote. HIV is found in varying concentrations or amounts in blood, semen, vaginal fluid, breast milk, saliva, and tears.

In order to obtain data on the survival of HIV, laboratory studies have required the use of artificially high concentrations of laboratory-grown virus. Although these unnatural concentrations of HIV can be kept alive under precisely controlled and limited laboratory conditions, CDC studies have shown that drying of even these high concentrations of HIV reduces the number of infectious viruses by 90 to 99 percent within several hours. Since the HIV concentrations used in laboratory studies are much higher than those actually found in blood or other specimens, drying of HIV-infected human blood or other body fluids reduces the theoretical risk of environmental transmission to that which has been observed—essentially zero. Incorrect interpretation of conclusions drawn from laboratory

studies have alarmed people unnecessarily. Results from laboratory studies should not be used to determine specific personal risk of infection because 1) the amount of virus studied is not found in human specimens or anyplace else in nature, and 2) no one has been identified as infected with HIV due to contact with an environmental surface. Additionally, since HIV is unable to reproduce outside its living host (unlike many bacteria or fungi, which may do so under suitable conditions), except under laboratory conditions, it does not spread or maintain infectiousness outside its host.

Households and Other Settings

Although HIV has been transmitted between family members in a household setting, this type of transmission is very rare. These transmissions are believed to have resulted from contact between skin or mucous membranes and infected blood. To prevent even such rare occurrences, precautions should be taken in all settings, including the home to prevent exposures to the blood of persons who are HIV infected, at risk for HIV infection, or whose infection and risk status are unknown. For example, hands and other parts of the body should be washed immediately after contact with blood, and surfaces soiled with blood should be disinfected appropriately. Practices that increase the likelihood of blood contact, such as sharing of razors and toothbrushes, should be avoided. Needles and other sharp instruments should be used only when medically necessary and handled according to recommendations for health-care settings. There is no known risk of HIV transmission to co-workers, clients, or consumers from contact in industries such as food service establishments.

Food service workers known to be infected with HIV need not be restricted from work unless they have other infections or illnesses (such as diarrhea or hepatitis A) for which any food service worker, regardless of HIV infection status, should be restricted.

The Public Health Service recommends that all food service workers follow recommended standards and practices of good personal hygiene and food sanitation. In 1985, CDC issued routine precautions that all personal service workers (e.g., hairdressers, barbers, cosmetologists, massage therapists) should follow, even though there is no evidence of transmission from a personal service worker to a client or vice versa. Instruments that are intended to penetrate the skin (e.g., tattooing and acupuncture needles, ear piercing devices) should be used once and disposed of or thoroughly cleaned and sterilized after each use using procedures recommended for use in health-care institutions. Instruments not intended to penetrate the skin but which may become contaminated with blood (e.g., razors) should be used for only one client and disposed of or thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each use.

Kissing Casual contact through closed-mouth or "social" kissing is not a risk for transmission of HIV. Because of the theoretical potential for contact with blood during "French" or open-mouthed kissing, CDC recommends against engaging in this activity with an infected person.

However, no case of AIDS reported to CDC can be attributed to transmission through any kind of kissing. Saliva, Tears, and Sweat HIV has been found in saliva and tears in only minute quantities from some AIDS patients. It is important to understand that finding a small amount of HIV in a body fluid does not necessarily mean that HIV can be transmitted by that body fluid. HIV has not been recovered from the sweat of HIV-infected persons. Contact with saliva, tears, or sweat has never been shown to result in transmission of HIV. **Insects** From the onset of the HIV epidemic, there has been concern about transmission of the virus by biting and blood-sucking insects. However, studies conducted by researchers at CDC and elsewhere have shown no evidence of HIV transmission through insects, even in areas where there are many cases of AIDS and large populations of insects such as mosquitoes. Lack of such outbreaks, despite intense efforts to detect them, supports the conclusion that HIV is not transmitted by insects. Such diseases as yellow fever and malaria are transmitted through the saliva of specific species of mosquitoes. However, HIV lives for only a short time inside an insect and, unlike organisms that are transmitted via insect bites, HIV does not reproduce (and, therefore, cannot survive) in insects.

Effectiveness of Condoms The proper and consistent use of latex condoms when engaging in sexual intercourse: vaginal, anal, or oral can greatly reduce a person's risk of acquiring or transmitting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection. Under laboratory conditions, viruses occasionally have been shown to pass through natural membrane ("skin" or lambskin) condoms, which contain natural pores and are therefore not recommended for disease prevention. On the other hand, laboratory studies have consistently demonstrated that latex condoms provide a highly effective mechanical barrier to HIV. In order for condoms to provide maximum protection, they must be used consistently (every time) and correctly. Incorrect use contributes to the possibility that the condom could leak or break. Numerous studies among sexually active people have demonstrated that a properly used latex condom provides a high degree of protection against a variety of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection.

The Public Health Service Response The U.S. Public Health Service is committed to providing the scientific community and the public with accurate and objective information about HIV infection and AIDS. It is vital that clear information on HIV infection and AIDS be readily available to help prevent further transmission of the virus and to allay fears and prejudices caused by misinformation.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- IS IT A CHOICE? by Dr. Lorne Warneke

Alberta currently has the dubious distinction of being one of two jurisdictions in Canada that does not allow sexual orientation to be an area protected against discrimination. The other jurisdiction is the North West Territories.

Quebec has included sexual orientation in its Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms since 1977. Ontario did so in 1986, and the Yukon and Manitoba made provisions for this in 1987. The remaining provinces have also included sexual orientation in their respective Human Rights charters or have stated their intent to do so (Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island). The Canadian Human Rights Act of 1985 does not specifically include sexual orientation on the list of grounds for protection, however there is a section within the Act (S-15(1)) which basically protects any minority group from discrimination. With regards to sexual orientation, such protection has been affirmed by the Ontario Court of Appeal in response to the Haig-Birch case (1992). On the basis of this case ruling, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island have stated their intention to make changes to their respective acts to do with human rights and both provinces are acting on the basis that this has already been enacted by legislation. The Alberta Government, for negative reasons, has resisted amending the Individual Rights Protection Act and including sexual orientation. The matter has been brought forth on several occasions by a number of concerned groups and has also been introduced and defeated as a private members bill in the house. The Alberta Human

Rights Commission agreed over a year ago to hear and document cases of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, although recent cabinet ministers, acting beyond their jurisdiction, have attempted to prevent the Commission from doing so! The Individual Rights Protection Act of Alberta currently states that discrimination on the basis of race, religious beliefs, color, sex, physical or mental disability, and ancestry or place of origin is prohibited by law. Sexual orientation is not included. To include sexual orientation and thus extend protection to another minority group, all citizens of Alberta, does not diminish the rights of anyone nor should this be perceived as a threat to these rights. Protection from discrimination means equal treatment, protected by law, to all people in matters of concern such as employment, and the receipt of services. The inclusion of sexual orientation would in fact enhance protection for everyone - heterosexual as well as bisexual and homosexual individuals. The Individuals Rights Protection Act is really a misnomer. The act does not confer any rights, but rather prevents discrimination against individuals on the basis of physical characteristics such as color or gender and protects the right to choose a religion without fear of recrimination. Is sexual orientation a choice? If so, then this choice is no different than religious choice. If sexual orientation is not chosen but is a physical characteristic of an individual then it becomes the same as gender, skin color or ethnic origin. Sexual orientation, as distinct from lifestyle, appears to be an immutable biological characteristic of an individual. Sexual orientation (both heterosexual and homosexual) is determined by forces that are biological in nature initiated in the womb, confirmed at a very early age, and operational by the time an individual is sufficiently mature to have

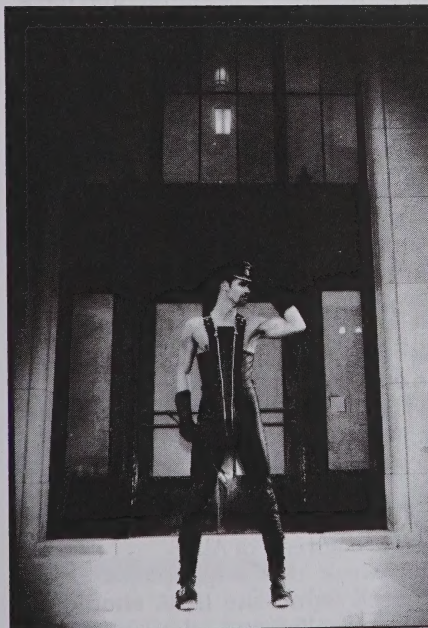
the first awakenings of a sense of sexuality.

The biological basis of sexual orientation is reinforced by the fact that it cannot be changed (in spite of isolated case reports of purported 'cures' for homosexuality). Awareness of one's sexual orientation crystallizes in early adolescence, and at a time when social forces to conform to a peer group and follow the norm are the greatest. In this setting, about 6-7% of young people nonetheless become aware of their homosexual orientation. There clearly is no choice involved. The biological basis of homosexuality is also reinforced by the fact that it has been consistently present for the duration of recorded time which suggests a genetically controlled characteristic that in some way has

survival value in the Darwinian sense. Otherwise the characteristic would not endure. In the search for an understanding of the mechanism that controls the development of sexual orientation, a number of hormonal, neuropsychological and anatomical differences between heterosexuals and homosexuals have been detected, which, although far from conclusive, strongly suggest biological underpinnings. To understand the mechanism that determines sexual orientation is like understanding the mechanism by which a fetus is transformed into a male or female or how hair color is determined. It does not and should not imply cause in the sense of pathology nor promote the search for a corrective action. Lifestyle, or the expression of

one's sexual orientation is, of course, chosen. An individual can choose to be celibate, for example, and many do so in a productive way. Most individuals, however, choose to express their sexuality within a lifestyle. For heterosexuals, this may mean marriage and family, for homosexuals, this may mean a life long same sex relationship. Both heterosexual and homosexual individuals may also choose lifestyles that place them in conflict with the generally accepted standards of the community. This is different and must be separated from the issue of sexual orientation. Including sexual orientation in the Individual Rights

(Continued on page 25)



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Homophobia - Alive and Well in Alberta

by Councillor Michael Phair

Justice Horace Krever, is determined to find out why more than 1,000 Canadians were infected with HIV, through tainted blood transfusion or blood products in early 1980s.

As one of the founders of AIDS Network Edmonton (ANE), I testified before the Krever Commission when it held public hearings in Edmonton last month. In 1984, The ANE applied to the City, University, Red Cross and provincial government for funding to do public education. Homophobia was alive & well and we received no money, although several provincial government insiders confided there was money available (\$12,000 actually).

When doctors reported HIV was probably spread through body fluids, gay men continued to donate blood in various work places. If they didn't, people might have thought they were avoiding donor clinics because they were gay. They were terrified of losing their jobs because there was no anti-discrimination legislation protecting gays.

Dr. Tom Bowen, former director of the Calgary Red Cross Blood Transfusion Services informed the Commission he was told in 1983 he could bar gays from giving blood because sexual orientation was not protected by provincial law. Yet it took until 1985 for the Red Cross to agree to ask their donors questions about their sexual behaviour. Clinic staff in both Calgary and Edmonton relied on "exterior signs and their gut instinct" to discard questionable blood. If provincial laws had included sexual orientation as a pro-

tected ground, better questions could have been asked sooner, lives could have been saved.

Douglas Elliott, a lawyer for the Canadian AIDS Society made this point when he testified. The Alberta government contributed to the spread of the AIDS virus by fostering an atmosphere of fear and intolerance towards people with HIV/AIDS, he stated. The government put people's lives in jeopardy by its philosophical bias towards gay people, he told the Commission. He singled out Diane Mirosh and her refusal to consider amending the IRPA as an example of homophobia.

Did the Calgary Sun support Elliott and call for changes in provincial anti-discrimination legislation? No, it attacked him for being an easterner and daring to suggest our provincial government had any responsibility for the spread of AIDS.

The same week this happened, Justice Anne Russell found the IRPA should be "interpreted, applied and administered as

though they contained the words sexual orientation" ; that The Alberta Human Rights Commission should have heard Delwin Vriend's complaint of being fired by The Kings College because he is gay. "Discrimination against homosexuals is an historical, universal, notorious, and indisputable social reality," Justice Russell wrote. Unfortunately, the government of Alberta does not agree and is appealing her decision.

Since that judgement we have seen rabid homophobia. The Alberta Report, The Edmonton Sun, Calgary Sun and many provincial politicians like Edmonton MLA Julius Yankowsky seem to think the issue is freedom of religion. It is not. It is about the IRPA guaranteeing access to an appeal process. What the judgement shows is that lesbians and gay men, like all other Albertans, are entitled to an appeal process in regards to employment, services and accommodations.

It is unfortunate that it took a judge to put into legislation what a homophobic government refuses to do. It is even more bizarre that this government is appealing a decision giving gay men and lesbians equality with other Albertans and Canadians in seven provinces and one territory. Homophobia is alive and well in Alberta. ??

THE FRONT PAGE

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The Lovely and Talented: Darrin Hagen

Composer, actor, producer, model, dancer and drag queen - these are but a few of the titles that Darrin Hagen (aka Gloria Hole) can lay claim to. Having been nominated for two Sterling Awards (our version of the Tony) it is only fitting that Darrin be profiled for this magazine.

At 30, Darrin has been around the Edmonton "scene" for over a decade - coming here from Rocky Mountain House (where?) - he started doing drag soon after. This is perhaps how he is best known - from the drag shows at old Flash, to more recent work such as Times Square Angel (by Charles Busch - where the female lead is supposed to be a drag queen) as well as numerous benefits and the occasional TV. talk

show. However, this is but one of his many facets. Within the theatre community, Darrin may be more well known for his musical abilities: composing, sound direction, etc. Indeed, this is what the Sterling Nominations are for: Music Composition and Sound Direction. His music can be heard in such



plays/musicals as 'Death of an Amway Salesman', 'Prom Night of the Living Dead', 'Ugly Man' as well as in numerous Fringe and Phoenix Theatre shows. Most recently, his music is in the acclaimed 'Marvin's Room', and the yet to be produced 'Outrageous' (after 4 years in development it has been seen only in its workshop format). Those who know Darrin may be surprised at the style of his music. Described as "ethereal, haunting, rich, complex and colourful", it seems a far departure for one who is forever "perky" (his word). He finds the strange dissonant music he develops uplifting. The more sinister and darker the music is supposed to be, the more Darrin comes out in it.

Darrin as an actor is a direct contrast to Darrin as a composer. Acting descriptions such as "A Shamelessly broad, Broad" and "Hagen blossoms into a amazingly imperious funny prima donna" show a different side of Darrin. Darrin has appeared in roles such as a "Irish" in 'Times Square Angel' (the tallest pubescent girl I've ever seen), to recent work in 'Afta Nafta'. Darrin's

style of acting, indeed his whole style of theatre, is to "go from the gut" when doing a role, doing what feels right for the character (rubbing up against Santa Claus?). As he stated, although serious is fun - his heart lies in comedy. In Drag numbers such as 'Life' (get your umbrellas) to the patter he is developing for the upcoming Street Performers Festival, there is a twisted (demented?) comedic edge to Darrin. Darrin has produced a few shows



for the "Fringe Festival": 'Guys in Disguise', 'Beirut', 'Damnee Manon, Sacree Sandra'. The most well-known of these shows must be 'Guys in Disguise'. At last year's Fringe 'Guys...' played to packed houses constantly. They have headlined fund-raisers, for the Janus Theatre Fund, the AIDS Network and numerous other

groups (such as the "Fabregay Egg" [by Twigg] for the Catalyst's Eggstravaganza). On June 3, they will be seen again in the Fringe Cabaret. Consistently acclaimed, "Guys in Disguise"

will return to the Fringe this year with "Guys in Disguise: The Sequin". Once again, Christopher Peterson will be joining the "Guys..."

With theatre being as subjective as it is, Darrin

counts himself lucky to be on the "good side" of the powers that be. It's part of his philosophy for success - making himself invaluable and being willing to try almost anything (he started in sound design then branched out into acting). Some of his other 'achievements' include dance (Mile Zero's (Continued on page 31)



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TUESDAYS

MEN WELCOME AFTER MIDNIGHT

HOROSCOPES

BY David Michael

We realize that you are all intelligent enough to know that astrology based solely on sun signs can give little more than vague generalizations... but vague generalizations can be fun and tantalizing at times.

ARIES Using your well known "act first - think later" motto at the beginning of June could bring an older ally to help your finances grow. It all depends on you taking the initiative and on carrying through. Watch for unexpected confusions in dealing with home on the 11th. If you're single, this is a good day to meet someone special in a public place.

TAURUS A second chance at an old romance for you single bulls born near the beginning of this sign. For you later bulls, it may now be time to cut and run. Your perseverance in a lost cause that you've been sweating for the past year, can yet cause more pain if you allow it. June should prove to be better financially, than you might have feared.

GEMINI June starts as a smooth month for you avid talkers, but after the twelfth you may find yourself having to repeat a lot. June 11th is your best day to grab opportunity, but by noon of the 12th the chance is gone. Even for one, such as yourself, who can deal with ten things at once, the 25th might be just too much. Allow it to pass and just go on.

CANCER It's smooth for the first half of this sign in June... especially if you avail yourself of the wisdom being offered you by an older enlightened one. You later cancers might find yourself questioning the upsets caused by your mate right now. Is all this unsettled confusion really worth it? Only you can decide, but there is no sense letting it get you crabby.

LEO If you find yourself torn between issues at home and in your career at the beginning of June, realize that these are old ones at home that are being revisited and will now take wisdom to resolve. It may even mean swallowing your pride. Your public stance this month calls for action, initiative, and drive. You can expect dynamic — even explosive — results at month's end if you haven't handled both these areas.

VIRGO A call to change your routine is heading your way this month. The 2nd weekend on, finds you highly critical of the way things are being handled. Just remember that these upsets this summer are a long term

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'plan' for a more perfect you. January's promise is still coming, but delays are expected. Instead of using this critical energy this month for your health's destruction, try to learn what can be done better in the future.

LIBRA Decisions at the start of this month will have long term financial repercussions. If your partner is the one making the impulsive decision, make sure you try to help with as much wisdom and information as you can to ensure a knowledgeable course is taken. For you later Libras who've been looking for the perfect mate, keep your eyes peeled on Saturday June 11th. It may not be what you expected but it could be wonderful.

SCORPIO You October SWcorpios might find yourselves strongly opposed as June begins. If you've been 'coming clean' in the past few weeks, then this will only help to give clarity and perspective to your inner awareness. Generally June will be smoother than May for most of this sign, but those of you born at the tail end know that you've yet to die to that old self that's been plaguing you. Right now take a breather from metamorphosis.

SAGITTARIUS Sharp criticism at the start of June is merely intended to point out to you some old behavior patterns you'd be better off without. Reaching out for aid at the start of this month will bring it easily, but as the weeks move on you could find yourself being blocked by those you trust. While the home situation needs time and attention, you probably don't want to feel tied down right now.

CAPRICORN Were you able to maintain your footing during May? June offers more challenges, especially on the 11th of the month. For you born January 15th to 19th, Just take it as it comes. No amount of will-power can clear up the confusion and sudden turns of events right now. For you early goats, be prepared for an offerr around the 11th, but decide on it by the 12th if you really want it to further your long term goals.

AQUARIUS Finances, having been tight, may yet shift into a lower gear. Around the 23rd, if you are willing to re-do some things for a time you could find minor respite. It's more likely though that a promise is lessened or forgotten instead. Watch for aid from a friend after the 18th but keep your expectations low — it's more moral than practical support they're offering.

PISCES If June begins with you feeling down and having to escape from it all, be prepared to hit a brick wall and have to do a lot of rebuilding after the 23rd. This is not a good time in your cycle to be avoiding the harsh realities of the world, and drugs or alcohol is especially damaging for you right now. Better to soak in a hot tub and use your daydreaming to build a new world for yourself... which you can then make real. This is your time.



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PRIDE WEEK EVENTS



June 17 Mr. Alberta Drummer and Drummerboy "Meet and Greet" sponsored by Northern Chaps at Boots and Saddle, 10242-106 Street from 8 - 11 PM
Queer Sightings Film Festival with the opening and reception at Garneau Theatre, 8712-109 Street.

June 18 Gay Men's Outreach Crew "Talking Sex" Workshop at AIDS Network, #201, 11456-Jasper Avenue from 12:30 PM - 6 PM.

"*Loving Her Safely*" a Safer Sex for Women Workshop at AIDS Network, #201, 11456-Jasper Avenue, 1 - 5 PM

Stonewall Pride Dances sponsored by Womonspace and the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre at Bonnie Doon Hall, 9240-93 Street, 8 PM - 1 am
Mr. Alberta Drummer and Drummerboy Contest "Prepare to Submit" sponsored by Northern Chaps at Phoenix Theatre. Barbecue at 6 PM, contest at 8 PM. Tickets at Boystown Cafe, Executive Express Video and The Roost.

Gay 90's Family Picnic by Lesbian Mother's Network/Gay Fathers at Hawrelak Park from 10 am - 4 PM.

June 19 Mr. Drummer "Submit to Daddy" Brunch sponsored by Northern Chaps/Alberta '04 Drummer Committee 11 am - 1 PM at Mayfair Hotel, 108 Street and Jasper Avenue. This brunch is a fundraiser for GLCCE and Delwin Vriend Defense Fund. Tickets at Boystown and The Roost.
Vision Unitarian Church Service, 12530 - 110 Av-

enue LesBiGay Business Fair, 1 - 5 PM at Inn on 7th Hotel, 10001 - 107 Street
Gay Men's Outreach Crew "Men Meeting Men: Sex, Dating and Intimacy" Workshop at AIDS Network, #201, 11456 - Jasper Avenue, 12:30 - 6 PM.

June 21 Womonspace Pride Women's Night at The Option Room Club

June 22 Lorelli Loveridge at Boystown Cafe Gallery - one show only - Tickets available at Boystown
"A Celebration of Pride and Freedom" Metropolitan Community Church Service, 7 PM followed by a potluck dinner at 8 PM, 10086 - MacDonald Drive.

June 23 Gay and Lesbian Community Centre Open House, 11745 - Jasper Avenue, 7 - 10 PM.

June 24 The Roost's Pride Benefit party, 8 - 11 PM, 10345 - 104 Street
Queer Sightings Film Festival continues at Garneau Theatre, 8712 - 109 Street

June 25 Pride Day March and Rally sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Awareness and Pride Committee, 1 PM - 5 PM, at McIntyre Park Gazebo, 8331 - 104 Street. The March is at 1:30 PM. PFLAG Picnic after parade
Edmonton Vocal Minority "Voices of Pride" Concert, 8 PM at Convocation Hall, University of Alberta.
Queer Sightings Film Festival Midnight Show at Garneau Theatre, 8712 - 109 Street.

June 26 "Trash Disco" presented by Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose at Boots N' Saddle, 10242 - 106 Street. Barbecue on the deck followed by a show at 11 PM. A draw will be held for a beautiful Rainbow Flag Quilt valued at over \$300.00. Get tickets at Boots where you can see the quilt after May 30. Proceeds go to buy a van for Kairos House.



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WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY: **DOLLAR HIBALLS** TILL MIDNIGHT

TUESDAY: **Womon 2 Womon** hosted by: WOMON SPACE

WEDNESDAY: **MAN HUNT**

THURSDAY: **FLASH FLOOD** 75¢ DRAFT
99¢ SCHNAPPS
D.J. Mike Brennan

FRIDAY: **SPRING INTO THE WEEKEND**

SATURDAY: **D.J. TRAVIS**

SUNDAY: **AFTERMATH & D.J. PAIN** Weekly Shows
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Lorelei Loveridge

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YOUR MENTAL POWERS

by Dr. Bob Johnstone

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

One of the best ways of eliminating stress or creating energy and leading a more exciting life, is thru exercise.

Most of us know one or more people that are full of energy. They are excited about life, sometimes they seem to get far more than their share of their work and play accomplished. If you really think about it, you can recall times when you too, were bursting with energy. When the days seemed too short, when work even became play. Now, think about times when you could barely keep your eyes open. Perhaps when sitting watching television or in a class in school, yet, after-school or when participating in sports you felt full of energy. What about that rush of energy in any challenging or dangerous situation? Many individuals feel drained, unable to drag themselves to do the simplest of tasks. They leave letters to good friends unanswered or waste energy in front of stress producing television programs. (Take your pulse when resting before it begins, then take it again, at the height of some of those violent programs. Try it again, during a news program after bad news.) If you take 5 gallons of gas, put it into a 55 gallon drum, throw a lighted rag into that drum, it burns furiously. Yet, throw a rug on top of that barrel, and the fire goes out! We need oxygen, to create energy. More than any other substance that we take into our bodies. If you go without food for 7 days, begin eating again, and you recover from that nicely. But, try going without oxygen for TWO MINUTES and you quickly become a believer. Oxygen is the MOST important SUBSTANCE we take into our body. In physics, kinetic energy is associated with motion. The same is true of human energy: it comes into existence through use. We are a different kind of machine, we wear out from lack of use. You can't store it up. As Frederick S. Perls one of the founders of Gestalt said, "I don't want to be saved; I want to be spent." We possess enormous stores of potential energy, more than we could ever use. If we tapped ten percent more of this energy, just think about what that could do for everyone. Begin to get into shape or stay in shape. Physical fitness adds dramatically to your

ability to create energy in every aspect of life. Many times, the solution for sleepy feelings or even depression, is 30 minutes of aerobic exercise. A pace that is * comfortable * for you..... I have a rowing machine in my office. I use it every day. In the beginning, I used to get breathless rowing for TWO minutes, I was so out of shape. So I only used it two minutes at a time. BUT, I kept using it for two minutes periods many times a day, until I could use it longer. The total still added up to at least 15 to 20 minutes per day and eventually, I could work out for an hour or more each day. Only 15 minutes per day, increases respiration or ability to take oxygen into your body at the maximum rate. 15 minutes per day, increases the strength of your heart at the * maximum * rate. As I exercised, my strength levels increased, my heart got stronger, and I could exercise for more than one or two minutes without resting to keep my heart in the safe range for my age. Gradually, I extended the time, so that I reached a point where I could row, for * 15-20 * minutes without stopping. By that time, I was amazed at how much younger I felt and the level of energy that I had. Today, my Doctor tells me my heart is stronger than that of many 25 year olds.

CHANGE YOUR THINKING, TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Accentuate the positive or affirmative and discover the reason others with a positive outlook on life, suffer far less than those who see the world in negative terms. There are many books today, that tell you how to think "positive" but, thinking positive, does not always work for all people. In my experience, it only works for about 30% of those who try to practice positive thinking. Many have problems getting any results. Why is this true? Think about it, if our positive thoughts create a positive effect in life, then our negative thoughts create negative effects. If we have been programmed to think in a negative way, even when we "practice" positive thinking, we still spend -more- time thinking negative. If we had a balance scale, and every time we thought positive we put a match on the plus side, but every time we thought negative, we put one on the minus side, at the end of the day there would be a lot more mass on the minus side. When using "self-hypnosis or Meditating" we produce brain waves. Commonly known as Alpha or Alpha and Theta brain waves. During the time we produce these particular brain waves, positive thoughts have approximately 100 times the effect, a

similar thought would have, if we were producing Beta waves, what we produce normally, during the day after the age of 12-16 when we get more responsibility. So theoretically, we can offset hundreds of negative thoughts by learning to produce Alpha waves like we did as a child, when we could learn faster and think in a positive manner during that time. Practising for only 10 to 30 minutes per day. PREFERABLY in ten minute time periods. For we gain more benefit from each separate practice period. It is just as effective as if we had another day to practice. (ie), if you fractionalize your time or practice six SEPARATE times during the day, you get the same results another person could get, by practising once a day, for six days. I believe you get even better results than they do. But it is difficult to prove or quantify, I only know that personally, my results are better this way, and my clients say theirs are too. Positive thinking alone works, but, for many, it only just maintains * the status quo - unlike others, who have been thinking * positive * all their lives, others have to overcome the effect of MILLIONS of past negative thoughts. This seems overwhelming to many, but, there is a different way of dealing with these past thoughts or memories that burn so much energy.

The method I have created to use, is like taking all the negative effect from past negative thinking, changing an individuals perception of those experiences so they think of them as "learning experiences" and moving that

mass to the positive side of the scale. By doing so, memories we perceived as BAD experiences from the past begins to work FOR us, instead of against us. Creating BENEFITS from each one. How can we do this, well it is simpler or easier than you might think. Think about this, bear with me for a moment, just accept this, until its proven wrong. Let's say, that EVERY experience we have had in life, is nothing more than a learning experience. But, we have been taught certain types of these experiences are traumatic or terrible. Because the brain functions like a computer, doing what it is told, due to false programming, it creates bad feelings. We feel resentment or anger in certain types of memories. Just because we're programmed to believe that's what we **must** feel. Because the brain has been programmed to create anger, in these situations, we can't function in the manner we would like. Sometimes we call this anger or resentment by many different names, like frustration, guilt, humiliation, jealousy, irritation, etc., the bottom line is, that even guilt, is caused by RESENTMENT. We resent ourselves or our behaviour, etc. Now, I have been teaching my clients and many professionals to change their perception of these memories. To look at them in a new or different way and see what they can *learn* when they do, they discover, just how they could use these memories as (Continued on page 33)



Louise Vallance in *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline*



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Photo by Trudie Lee

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Our Community Groups and Services

AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

The Network retains its original operating philosophy: to provide support and education wherever it can be helpful in north-central Alberta. AIDS Network of Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. Today the network provides: Education, Info-Line, Speakers Bureau, Resource material and various Support groups. If you wish to know more about the Network call 488-5742

AI-BEAR-ta Club

This is Alberta's Bear club for Bears and Bear-lovers. We are primarily a Safe, Sane and Consensual group for social interaction, camp-outs and general Bear-play. You can reach us through Gaylines or The AI-BEAR-ta Club, 12718-93 Street, Edmonton.

Alberta Society for Positive Women

The society is dedicated to supporting the needs of women with HIV in the province of Alberta. We provide support, education and advocacy to women with HIV. This is provided through our Peer Counselling (488-5768), Support groups (424-6346), Education (488-5742) and Speakers Bureau (488-5742).

Alcoholics Anonymous

A A is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for

membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

Badminton Group

The group meets on Fridays at Oliver School between 7:30 - 9:30 PM. Use the door at the north entrance to the school. Everyone is welcome and some equipment is available. A small donation of one dollar is appreciated. Contact Frank at 990-1696 for the December and January schedule.

Edmonton Prime Timers

Prime Timers is a social fraternity for older gay and bisexual men and their friends. The purpose of Prime Timers is to provide an opportunity for mature gay men to fraternize and join together in a programme of social activities. If you would like more information drop a line to Edmonton Prime Timers, Suite 1093, 11444 - 119 Street, Edmonton, T5G 2X6.

Edmonton Vocal Minority

We are a group of women and men who join together in a common love for music, and the desire to build a greater spirit of unity and pride in the gay and lesbian community. We strive to bridge the gap which can separate us from the mainstream of society. Persons who wish to sing with the choir should call David at 424-1561. Support members are welcome to join by phoning Lorna at 423-6987.

Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society

The Feather of Hope was founded on a need to provide AIDS education and support to Native People in Alberta. Through education and the development of communities in partnership, it is hoped that the spread of AIDS will be lessened.

We offer training and education programs, as well as support through traditional ways. Volunteers are very important to us, if you can help, or would simply like some more information call 488-5773

Gays and Lesbians on Campus (GALOC)

GALOC is a university based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 pm on campus; main floor of the Athabasca hall. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by calling 988-4166.

Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (G.L.C.C.E.)

The centre contributes to the well-being of Edmonton's gay, lesbian and bisexual community through informational, social support services and its social information line. The services offered by the centre include an information line, telephone referrals, library, drop-in peer support counselling and social activities arranged and sponsored by the centre. Further information is available at 488-3234

Gaylines

A new service to the Gay and Gay positive community is available. The intent of this line is to aid in the forming of a central information net that will aid all walks of life. Messages are outgoing only. The line is setup in a single location that will be permanent and will also be listed in the phone directory. It is free to all Alternative Lifestyles, Support groups, Clubs, Individuals and Businesses. Call 486-9661 to request your mailbox.

Gay and Lesbian Awareness (G.A.L.A.)

We are an organization interested in human rights issues especially related to sexual orientation and changing Federal and Provincial legislation. We are always interested in new members. If you are interested call David Sanders at 487-2684.

Illusions Social Club

A social club for the TV/TS oriented. Our goal is to provide a safe, discrete meeting of kind in safe meeting locations. It's time to come out of the closet. For more information please write to Illusions, Box 33002, Glenwood PO, Edmonton, AB T5P 4V8 or phone (403) 486-9661

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations which either provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held monthly on the last Wednesday. For meeting location and time please see the Court notice boards in Boots and Saddle or the Roost. You may also call Gaylines at 486-9661 and press box 27.

Interfaith Association on AIDS Edmonton

The purpose of this association is to sensitize local faith communities and their leaders to the unique spiritual and emotional needs of those infected by HIV/AIDS. The following faith communities are included: Anglican, Baha'i, Baptist, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Lutheran, Metropolitan Community Church, Roman Catholic, Temple Beth Ora, Ukrainian Catholic, Unitarian and United Churches. Phone 488-5742 for more information.

Les-Bi-Gay Darts Club

This is an informal and social dart club. No previous experience is necessary. We are here to have some fun and meet each other in an open atmosphere. There are no fees. We gather at

GLCCE the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM. Call 428-8847 or 421-4427.

Living Positive

Emotional, Spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support in. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counseling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768

Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton (M.C.C.)

We are a local church within the denomination of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our major focus is to the defranchised of society. The UFMCC allows anyone to feel a part of the Christian Community and to claim our place in God's Universe. Services are open to all. We worship on Sunday evenings and on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Please feel free to join us! Call 429-2321 for more information.

Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and womyn was established six years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern chaps meets at Boots & Saddle on the first and third Friday of each month at 9 PM.

Northern Titans

Northern Titans is the Gay and Lesbian bowling league in Edmonton. You are welcome to join the league either as a team member or a drop in. Bowling time is 5:15 every Saturday at Lynwood Bowl on 16127 - 118 Avenue. There is a \$12.00 charge for shoes and three games. Call Joe 454-1458 or Doug at 488-5421

Pink Triangle Youth of Edmonton (P.T.Y.E.)

The Pink Triangle Youth Group is a program offered by the Community Centre. The youth group exists so that young people age 16 to 21 - lesbians, gays, bisexuals and those wondering about their sexuality can explore their feelings, meet other young people like themselves. Information is available to all along with fun in a safe, supportive environment. Phone 488-1574 for more information about the Youth Group.

Queer Sightings Society

Our aim is to present and/or produce visual media containing Lesbian, gay and BiSexual content. Our plans include film festivals and private screenings. If you are interested in the film media contact us by calling 488-3234.

Team Edmonton

Our goal is to enhance Edmonton's Gay and Lesbian community by facilitating participation in sporting, cultural, and leisure activities at the local, national and international levels. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton we meet the last Saturday of every month, 7:00 P.M. at #104, 11745 - Jasper Avenue. You can call 486-9661 Box 16 for more info.

Womonspace

The purpose of Womonspace is to foster a positive of Lesbian identity among ourselves and the larger community. We hold dances, produce a newsletter and hold other activities. For information call the Lesbian Life Line at 425-0511.

If you are an Edmonton based Gay or Lesbian Community non-profit group and wish to be included in this directory send a short description to Times 10 Magazine, Box 932, Edmonton, AB T5J 2L8 or Fax us at 477-1898.

Profile: Prime Timers

THE GREENING OF THE SENIOR GAY

Since homosexuality became a fashionable subject for sociological studies in the 1960s little has been written about the dilemma of the senior gay in the male homosexual community in North America, and the studies that have been published have usually painted a negative picture. In his book, "Sexuality and Homosexuality," Arno Karlen quotes from a study by Martin Weinberg, "The Aging Male," (1969) in which Weinberg suggests that aging comes sooner to homosexuals than to heterosexuals, due to the terrific premium on youth in the gay world. "The lonely, aging 'auntie' trying to carry a fragile and varnished Peter Pan quality into middle age, is a specter before the eyes of young homosexuals—or as they so pungently put it "Nobody loves you when you're old and gay." In the 60s there was some truth to this statement, but times have changed. There is no longer any need for a senior gay—and by 'senior' I am referring to gays over 40 years of age—to be a lonely outsider hovering at the door of the closet, fearful of social rejection if he ventures into the mainstream of gay life. Senior gays are busy creating their own contact networks, their own social organizations, their own publications and other methods of communication, even their own national and regional get-togethers.

I came out of the closet in the late 70s when my wife died. I first came out to my children who accepted the news with complete equanimity and have been my strongest supporters ever since. I was soon faced with the fact that I was going to be an unhappy man if I couldn't find a compatible partner to share my retirement years. I'd had a good marriage and I was most unhappy living on my own. But I knew I could no longer hide behind a conventional marriage. I had to try to find a gay male partner and I assumed it would be a man of my own age if the relationship was to be successful. I never gave any thought to the idea of sharing my life with a younger man. At the time I was living and teaching in a small town in the Maritimes. I knew I would have to move to the big city to find a partner—either Toronto or Vancouver. I decided to spend a summer in Toronto in 1979 to assess the gay community there. During that summer I took a holiday in Europe and met a 30 year old gay man in London, a fellow Canadian. We fell in love, I was enticed to move to Edmonton where my partner was working, we set up house together in early 1989 and we have had a very happy partnership ever since. Together we have explored the many channels created by senior gays in their endeavours to form a senior gay community in North America. We have supported

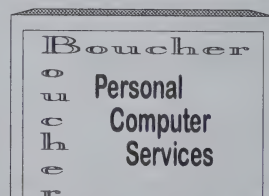
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and contributed to the two major publications which cater for the interests of the mature gay, "Chiron Rising" and "Centaur." We have subscribed to other specialized publications and newsletters and have corresponded with many of their readers. We have paid four visits to Mardi Gras in New Orleans in the past few years, not for the excitement of Mardi Gras, but because it has become the annual meeting place for a fine group of senior gays we now count as our close friends. Through letters, telephone conversations, and visits to other senior gays in Canada and the U.S. we have built up our own network of friends. And we have discovered to our great joy that older-younger relationships like ours are common and usually very secure.

Probably the most influential and impressive organization for senior gays is Prime Timers, started by a remarkable man, Woody Baldwin, in 1987. Woody was living in Boston at the time and he became painfully aware of the fact that while younger gays and the lesbian community had their own outlets for social contacts there were no similar outlets for mature gays. To meet this need Woody started a Prime Timers group in Boston as a club for mature gays and bisexuals where they could enjoy common social activities, and feel free to share their thoughts and needs with their peers without fear of prejudice or publicity. He established four guiding principles. Firstly the group (or Chapter) should develop a programme of social activities, spearheaded by a monthly meeting, to satisfy the social needs of the members—potluck suppers, indoor card and board games, dining out and pub nights, sports activities, cultural visits, and many more. The activities should be planned and organized by the members themselves.

Secondly, the Chapter should be administered by a small committee with the minimum of red tape, and the administrative costs should be kept to a minimum. Many senior gays are far from affluent. Thirdly the member's right to privacy should be pro-

(Continued on page 34)

Voices of Pride

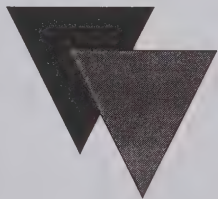


presents

Voices of Pride

An uplifting concert saluting the strength, diversity and richness of our community.

Pride Week '94,
Saturday, June 25, 1994, 8:00pm
University of Alberta
Convocation Hall



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\$10.00 advance tickets
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available at:

The AIDS Network of Edmonton:
#201, 11456 Jasper Avenue (488-5742)

Boystown:

10116 - 124 Street (488-6636)

Southside Sound:

10362 - 82 Avenue (432-7503)

EVM Members

advance tickets sold until 3pm, June 25

Sign Language Interpreter Available

Tech Talk

by J. A. Long



Summer finally seems to be here, and if you're like me, you're less inclined to be sitting in front of your monitor doing work. So don't do work! Here's some shareware computer games that are guaranteed to keep you out of the sun.

You're really missing something if you've heard of **DOOM** by Id software, but haven't yet downloaded it to give it a try. **DOOM** is a fast-moving virtual reality game in which you are plunged into a brutal 3-D world. To escape alive, you must outfight legions of grisly fiends and solve **DOOM**'s lethal puzzles. You play a space marine equipped with a variety of weapons and technological artifacts, but in the end it comes down to who's tougher: you or them. Note: **DOOM** portrays graphic violence and may not be suitable for younger children. **Doom** contains the most realistic 3-dimensional computer graphics I have seen. It is an intense, action oriented game that keeps the adrenaline flowing. **DOOM** can also be played with more than one player simultaneously. Shareware version 1.2 allows people to play over a modem or a network. You can either cooperate to kill the bad guys, or you can kill the bad guys and then try to eliminate each other!

The only problem which may arise from **DOOM** is its relatively high system requirements. This is not a game written for play on a 128k computer. A person needs a minimum of a 80386 based computer with 4 megabytes of RAM if you intend to run it under DOS. You would need a minimum of 6 megabytes of RAM to run it under Windows, and 4 to 8 megabytes for OS/2, depending how you've configured OS/2. It's also a BIG file. Be prepared to spend some time downloading if your modem runs at 2400 baud.

Remember Space Invaders? It was the first video game I ever played, back in 1978 or thereabouts. Your ship was at the bottom of the screen, and the aliens would descend in rows from the top of the screen. You had to shoot the aliens before they reached you, or else... This basic theme has been reworked countless times in computer games since then. The recently released **RAPTOR**, by Apogee Software, is by far the best attempt I have seen using this theme.

In **RAPTOR** you kill for cash. In the future as a mercenary flying the super-tech Raptor, you'll be sent on interplanetary missions to knock off top competitors of MegaCorp. Upgrade your firepower with 14 hard core weapons. Little thinking, just lots of reflex testing action Jaw-dropping VGA animation and cinematics with support for all major sound cards. This game is TOUGH on the higher levels, and already there are cheats available on the BBS'. It will definitely keep you at the keyboard for a few hours.

Once again, this is not a game that can be played on a 8086 or 80286 based system. You need a 80386 with a minimum of 2 megabytes of RAM.

For pinball fans, realistic pinball has finally come to the computer. Epic Megagames released Epic Pinball, which brings true arcade-style Pinball to life on your PC. The 256-color scrolling VGA graphics, digital music and sound, and ultra-realistic style will take your breath away. This true commercial-quality product was created by the authors of Silverball, the new record-setting retail pinball game. Minimum 80386 with 640k RAM.

It's getting almost impossible to find new games which will run on the 8088 or 80286 platform. However, here's a game that I would describe as a LodeRunner clone (for those of you who

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had Apple II computers) which will run on these processors. In **JETPACK** by Adam Pedersen and Software Creations you explore 100 levels of treacherous dungeons in search of precious gems. You begin your quest equipped with Jetpack model L1069-E and a powerful Phase Shifter. You don't kill your enemies, you attempt to trap them so you have enough breathing space to collect the loot. This is a fast puzzle oriented arcade game, and well worth taking a look at no matter whether you have a fast processor or not. You should be able to find most of these games available on most BBS', but if you can't, they're available on my board at 453-5711, 23 hours a day.

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after Ralphie
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Life Me a Last Time

by Steven Dyson

The clock on the dresser
welcomes the sun to shine
whispers
the window
so shyly
to the mirror
its desire

Oh fair demon
so fair
on the walls
do you hang
all of your grievances
all
of
your
despair

Oh pity pleases solitude
won't solitude
please
please me
and lullaby me
in the truth
for memories are injured
still on the mend
and wisdom is weary
hungry for the wind

Shhhhhhh....

tell me
where did little harmony
when cheating on his wife
justify the reasoning
to squandering
his free time
and where in my mind
is the willow
the way
for lonely love
from waiting on wishes
collecting dust
instead of kisses

Shhhhhhhh...

Tell me
how many tolls
to beckon some angels
Oh how many maybes
make no

Shhhhhhhh....

Life me a last time
listen (listen)
to your heart (to your heart)
is it
is it
has it
will it

LOVE IS ...

by Krystal Seitzer

Love is
the ability to grow with one another

Love is
the ability to care for one another

Love is
to have expectations for one another
but not to extremes

Love is
the ability to communicate

Love is
to understand the needs and desires
of each

Love is
to enjoy each other's company

Love is

to create peace and tranquility in each
other's life

Love is
to share one another's dreams and hopes

Love is
to try to reach each other's ideas and
desires together

Love is
to urge each other to accomplish what may
seem impossible

Love is
to believe in one another

Love is
to be best friends

Love is
to live each day one day at a time
and still strive for the next, together

Love is
respect for each other

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INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

(Continued from page 7)

Protection Act does not extend privileges to a minority group. Importantly, it extends and broadens the protection of human rights for everyone. Not to have sexual orientation included in the Act is discriminatory against both heterosexuals and homosexuals. It allows the continuation of stigmatization of and prejudice against a minority group. Prejudice of any type becomes dehumanizing and harmful to all of us. Everyone loses. "Any group that attempts to prove its superiority over another, by using unjust power, is actually demonstrating its moral inferiority", an argument put forth in reference to slavery by the fugitive slave and abolitionist, Frederick Douglass in 1845. 1. The comment is relevant to the issues facing us today. With regards to sexual orientation, there is no choice. It is the way an individual is born. Lifestyle or expression of sexual orientation does involve choice. For most of us this

choice is socially congruent. With regards to the Individual Rights Protection Act, there is also a choice. The Act needs to be changed to include sexual orientation, thus allowing Alberta to join the rest of Canada and most, if not all, of the modern Western world. It is our choice to ensure that this happens by lobbying our elected representatives. Until the Act is changed, it remains as part of our collective shame.

by Lorne Warneke, M.D., F.R.C.P. (C)
Edmonton, Alberta May, 1994.

1. Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, written by himself (1845), edited with an introduction by Houston, A. Baker Jr., 1982, New York, Penguin. ??

Thoughts on the movie "OUT"

from Pink Triangle Youth Edmonton

A great movie, funny, serious, happy and sad. It's an eye opener, it shows facets of being a gay teenager that applies to all of us..... Sky Jauch

I believe that his movie was very funny and extremely educational. Even to those who have just recently come out of the closet, ourselves. I think more heterosexual people should watch it, it's an overall great movie..... Damon Downey

I believe that if more straight people were to view this movie they would be less afraid of us. It showed the struggle that each one of us goes through and it made me feel less alone. I think this movie should be shown in the schools to help promote more understanding and less prejudice..... Gereen

I felt that the movie "Out" was very educational and that if it was shown in the schools, it might give some idea of what being gay is. If they knew a bit about us they might not be so cruel as they are. To sum up, I loved it..... Dace Deslauriers



Music by Mikee

Urban Motion Project "Session 1 - 12" Of Love" (Deep Crap Records) 122bpm Typical house grooves a-la Dance Factory here. "I want ya, I need ya, I want ya, I need ya" male vocal stabs throughout over a tom-tom percussive laden track. Non-existent bass line on this track just the typical organ spattering that make this cut DEEP HOUSE. **1/2

Freedom "Closer" (Demo Mix) - (Power Music Records) 124bpm Another Deep House 12" here, this particular mix has a trancy combination of vocal and organ injections over a percussive bed that will be the perfect early morning dancing drifter. This double 12" single has eight different mixes that all fall into that early morning / late nite groove with a very useable accapella mix that anyone could get closer to. ***

The Chris Simmonds Project "Club Trance" (Snoring In Detroit Mix) - (Definitive Recordings) 125bpm I must have been in a deep space mood when I picked

these records at "Groove Asylum" 'cause this one is another deep house track, don't get me wrong these tracks are all worthy of dancing and listening, but it's usually one or two not four or five deep house recordings per purchase. Anyway, this instrumental is a pretty catchy groover, very minimalistic again but it's got the groove. ***

Daft Punk In Paris "Alive" (New Wave Final Mix) - (Soma Recordings) 128bpm Alright some Techno, well Techno with an Alternative feel. A very strong kick and snare drum throughout this instrumental track. A very good high-energy builder that will please the Alternative crowd as well as the techno freaks. ****

House Crash Vol. 1 "Check It Out" (Strictly Rhythm) 128bpm A more up-tempo house groover here, very infectious sax, organ, percussive base with lots of "Check It Out" vocal dashes that make this one a bouncin' bopper. ***1/2

Luvdup "Goodtime" (McCready-Dasilva Mix) 130bpm -



423-HOMO
10148-105 STREET

MAN HUNT

WEDNESDAYS

(Luvdup Mix) 121bpm - (Deep Records) OW, lots of funky energy here. This one reminds me of that "Funky Guitar" track that came out about this time last year. This one falls into that Doop-Doop vein of energy with lots of change-ups that make this one really fun for you techno dance fanatics. ****

Haddaway "Rock My Heart" (Extended Mix) - (Arista Records) 130bpm This cut is on the flip side of Haddaway's remake of Bob Marley's "Stir It Up", it's very standard Haddaway Up-tempo Cheese, it's very recognizable and therefore should get a typical Haddaway reaction. Check out the (Celebration Mix) it seems to have a nicer techno dance flow. **1/2 You know when I first listened to "Stir It Up" I didn't really care for it but after giving it a second listen it's really not that bad of a remake, it could go somewhere.

The Grid "Texas Cowboys" - (Downtown Records) 135bpm Techno energy to

dance your socks and underwear off to. This track cooks and should pull anyone who wants to perspire to the dance floor. Great sounds with an intensely rapid synth-bass line. (High Plains Prankster Mix) is right up there energy wise, a little more trancy with a longer intro, a few more sound effects and a smoothie string track dubbed in. ****1/2

"Cheerleader Song" 127bpm This is track two off The Grid single, nice horns over a techno base, not much to write home about but a good track still. ***

Deep Creed 94 "Warrior's Dance" (EasternBloc Records) 128bpm High energy techno rocken' tune, lot's of vim that should clean out anyone's bath tub and shower. ***1/2

2 Unlimited "The Real Thing" - (Byte Records) 144bpm Very Typical 2-Unlimited format, should do some thing for them. ***

**The Time: Saturday, June 18, 1994
The Place: Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Phoenix Theatre, Downtown**

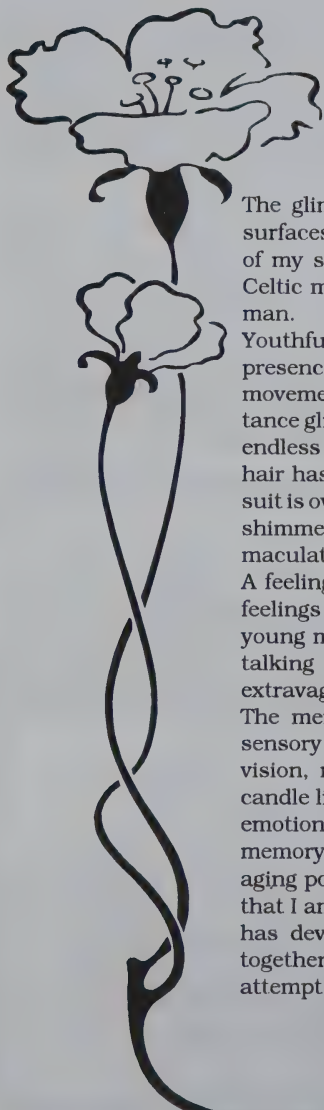
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Visions of Yesterday

.. By Scott Astle



The glimmer of light that shimmers off the reflective surfaces hypnotizes my thoughts to drift. My awareness of my surrounding diminishes with the sound of soft Celtic music fading, my attention is drawn to a young man.

Youthful in posture, vibrant energy radiates from his presence. Culture, ever so mystic, and slow graceful movements accent his qualities manhood. From a distance glimpse, his age seems to be in his early twenties, endless efforts have been made on fashion and style. His hair has been freshly cut, flawless in presentation, his suit is oversized, but worn with distinction. Doc Martin's shimmer without a blemish or scuff, showing the immaculate care given to accent his debonair style.

A feeling of warmth flows through my chest, distance feelings of the past come forth to a time of familiar. The young man centers the arena of attention at his table, talking in a powerful, dynamic form, gesturing the extravagance of his thought and story telling.

The memories of a man in similar nature flood my sensory lobes. The youth in my foresight fades from my vision, memories take me adrift in the middle of the candle light diner, the music now accents the swarm of emotion that quickens my heart. I feel the vengeance of memory ride down my spine, forcing me to straighten my aging posture. I lean heavily on the small corner table that I am seated at, taking note of the perspiration that has developed on my hands, as I clench my hands together in a rubbing motion. My chest expands in the attempt to grasp at air to settle the uneasy feeling that

I am drowning in. I quickly change my thought of memories, directing my attention out the window front of the busy corner cafe. My eyes wonder the street, searching for a subject for my thoughts.

The only image my eyes catch is that of the reflection of the inside of the cafe, and the young man, who is now seated. Overwhelmed with intrigue I turn, the group is dispersed, left at the table of six is two. The man of my attention and another fellow, one of similar stature, but of different posture. Obviously not as sure of himself. I watch the two men carry their verbal exchange to a height of emotional expression. Smirking with curiosity of their ignorance of an audience, I admire the open expression of defined affection between them, ever so subtle, not disrupting the diner, yet powerful enough words cannot explain.

As I admire their attentions, expressions and communications from afar, I am reminded of a day, a few years ago, yet ever so vivid as it comes to my senses. A day that I have never been able to forget, compare, or embed as past. I can recall the sensation of touch to the point of feeling his pours breathe, the pound-

ing of my heart as I walked through the gates of history reminding me of the calming effect of his presence. The sole attention of his loving companionship, that blanketed me with protection from the loneliness of day to day life. The warmth and sensations that encompassed me with a single embrace, offered deliverance to a world of placid, rejuvenating love and contentment.

My thoughts of yesteryear were abruptly disrupted by the request of the waitress. The reality of present time chased a warmth from my chest, and brought the attention of tears warming my cheeks to the forefront my mind. I quickly wiped the tears dry, ordered another cappo, and focused in again on the young male couple in the corner.

Their conversation had changed pace, now more of a stance was being taken, obviously a disagreement of sorts. I had to force myself to stay seated. There was a nurturing side of me that wanted to tell them to quit the bickering and to appreciate the precious moments they had together. But, the foolish thoughts diminished as I pictured a man of my stature approach myself and my lover during a scuffle. We would have stopped

only long enough to give this man directions to hell. I sighed heavily, and took a sip of my cappo that had just arrived to the table.

I sat in awe of my amazement of youth, for the vitality was not as distance as I felt lately. The absence of love within one's life welcomes age in ways we can only begin to comprehend from a common outlook. The vigour longevity of

(Continued on page 35)

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3. A movie
4. The Theatre
5. Other _____

Have you been in the same relationship for the past 3 years? Yes No

Have you changed jobs in the past 3 years? Yes No

Is your income level less now than 3 years ago? Yes No

What is your "personal" outlook for the next 12 months?

Good Same Better

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Additional Comments if you wish

Please Fax or Mail to Times .10, Box 932, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2L8 Fax 477-1898

Star Studded Cows



*Guys in
Disguise*

Appearing at the Edmonton Fringe Theatre Event

Darrin Hagen

Continued from page 11

'Burger Barn' where he also appeared, in Drag, on the poster), "mod nudelling" (his phrase) and the odd stint in "erotic conversation".

With the recent Governmental decision to limit funding to shows "offensive to community standards" whose community?), Darrin was quoted as stating the theatre is a response to what's oppressive in the community. As was stated in the Catalyst profile, theatre can change people. Darrin reinforced this with examples from 'Guys ...' - at last years show, most of the audience was straight, and if the "in your face" format of the show served to enlighten, it's successful.

Darrin argues that the people who change things don't fit in the system. Darrin readily acknowledges that he doesn't fit the system. He "wears the fact that [he's] queer as a badge of honour", something to be proud of. As has been noted, his renown comes primarily from Drag, yet that is not where his focus is (he spends much less time developing his drag for a show than he does developing music). It's as if Drag has been a

tool utilised to further other areas, and enlighten others. This is not wholly problematic for Darrin, although he does admit that it can be a double edged sword. While he gains notoriety for his drag, other accomplishments may be overlooked.

Upcoming for Darrin in the next few months include: the Fringe Cabaret (June 3); the Street Performers Festival (watch for Susan Powter); "Guys in Disguise: The Sequin"; and, he will be hosting "Loud and Queer 2" in November (the Catalyst show).

We wish Darrin luck with the Sterling Nominations, and leave you with a quote of his - very suitable to his twisted mind: "If you're not queer (different), you're ordinary. If you're ordinary, you're boring."

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Juba Concert a Huge Success

by Catherine Reininger

On April 23 Convocation Hall was inundated with the lively sounds of rattles, drums and cow bells, blended with the marvellous music of Juba presented by the Edmonton Vocal Minority. And there was no music without motion. The six person ensemble danced, sang, and mesmerized the audience with their lively songs, vaulting from the stage to mingle with the full house as they shared the folk songs of southern Africa. Even the audience was unable to keep still as Zulu music and Zimbabwe chants filled the room. Gourds, with beads macramé over their surfaces, rattles, shaks and sticks as well as mahogany drums carved out of tree trunks added to the tantalizing variety of Juba's repertoire. With leg rattles tied to their calves, they energetically performed fiery folk songs from Zimbabwe. Two of Juba's women wore simple skirts of Zimbabwe fabric gathered into impressive bustles that only added to the enchantment of their lively dance. The best, however was saved for last, when a rollicking folk song brought the entire Edmonton Vocal Minority choir dancing and swaying down the isles to join Juba on stage for the last few songs. The two groups had workshoped together for the whole afternoon and Edmonton Vocal Minority even mastered a little of the Shona and Ndebeli dialects for the performance. "It was wonderful to have this built in backup group", said Warren. "We started the workshop by turning off the lights and having everybody make strange noises to get in the mood and to shed their inhibitions." The response was phenomenal. If the concert was any indication, they must have had the time of their lives. The audience certainly did. The only thing one might have wished for was a little more of EVM. On June 25 Edmonton Vocal Minority will give a concert at Convocation Hall, 8 PM during Pride Week.

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June 30 Mr. Jim's Carnival, Boots N' Saddle

July 1 Mr. Jim's Carnival, Roost Canada Day Show, Boots at midnight

July 6 Village People Show, Roost

July 13 Gretchen's \$1.49 Drag Promenade, The Roost

July 15 Village People Show, Boots N' Saddle

July 16 Village People Show at 11:00 PM, Option Room

July 24 Turn-a-bout Ball at the Roost

July 30 Duets at the Option Room, show time 11 PM

The Court is also sponsoring Barbecue's Sundays at Boots N' Saddle from 5 PM to 8 PM

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A Times .10 Publications Society Production

YOUR MENTAL POWERS

(Continued from page 17)

learning experiences, instead of or in spite of the content. As they begin to change perceptions, their feelings change. As the feelings change, they are able to use them in beneficial ways. They stop experiencing the stress or pain associated with them. They stop feeling anger or resentment when thinking of memories and can even feel good when thinking about those memories, using the memory to help now or in the future. Even a mugging, contains learning, it can teach us NOT to be alone in an area where this can happen, it can teach us to take certain precautions we did not think necessary in the past. Muggings or even Rape, are not our fault, but we can learn from the memories if we do not bury them and attempt to forget them, but change our perceptions about them. But, you might ask, how can I do this? Well, first, you can practice the technique that I have described earlier. Practice for at least eight to twelve weeks and you will be able to relax or eliminate stress more quickly than you would dream possible and put the memories to work for you in ways which will help you in the future, even if you are not consciously aware of how they help, clients discover it is happening. This mental exercise you can learn helps you to develop a conditioned reflex to create deep relaxation *fast.* Eventually, you can release stress so fast it happens in three to five minutes. You could feel better in that time than it might have taken hours or days and sometimes even weeks or months to achieve in the past. Some have suffered for years. Some people when they first use this mental exercise say, "It sounds too simple." I agree, it is very simple, but the best results are obtained by using tapes that I have made for my clients to use, where the complex part is done for you at subconscious levels. The tapes stimulate subconscious levels to utilize abilities that everyone has always had, but never learned to use. In all the research I have reviewed, many discovered that simple things work best. Complex methods worked with *some* of the people. But I wanted something, which would work with a greater percentage. So I have modified the acronym "KISS" to my version which I like better "Keep Integrating Simple Solutions." When I began to simplify the process I developed in 1967 for deep relaxation or stress reduction and pain relief it began to work much more effectively. The simpler I made it for the client to use, the better it worked. My goal was to create something even a Five Year old could use. When they could, it worked better for all. If you practice, you will discover it WILL work for you. *

IF you can't seem to get into the habit of practising, realize that is because of past * programming * and that programming CAN be changed with persistence. If you begin, then forget, when you think about it, begin again. Each time you make a decision to do so, it begins to create a habit pattern. Just keep beginning again, and again, and again until you practice for two, three, four days in a row. If you miss again so what, begin again. Soon you will discover you are practising longer periods 5, 6, 7, days in a row. Whenever you stop practising for lack of time or something else seems more important, just go back and begin practising again. Once you have completed practising for 10-12 weeks daily, you discover you just take some time each day to improve the quality of your life. Is it SELFISH to take time you have been giving others to change your own life? Of course not, for if you do NOT take care of yourself FIRST, they you will not be able to take care of anyone effectively. You might have more stress than the average person and need the set of tapes to get the best results. But, many will never need to use tapes. Some people just don't believe they can reduce or eliminate stress. They have been so programmed in childhood, by observing others who had stress or emotional problems, they feel these feelings are impossible for them to change, so it becomes their reality. Others my **think** they understand how to practice, but something is not clear to them and confusion can slow down progress. Some people are afraid of asking stupid questions. There are NO stupid questions, people who did not know the ANSWERS to your questions gave you that impression as a child, because THEY did not want to appear to be stupid. If you don't have the answer, it is BEST to ask the QUESTION. In spite of what anyone may have brainwashed you into believing The only questions which hurts us, is the one that we do not ask. When my wife got "rid" of the feelings that she was "stupid" (after being programmed by a baby sitter) she took an IQ test as she then "felt smarter" and scored 57 points higher than before, a year later, she scored 187 on an IQ test. (The conclusion of the article will appear in the August/September issue of Times .10). In the meantime you can write to Dr. Bob Johnstone at the following address.

Dr. Robert B. Johnstone
PO Box 5122, 1201 W Valencia, Ste #68 Fullerton,
Ca. 92633

He will be happy to send you further information on his material. He can also be contacted via the FidoNet conference: Your Mental Powers

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Prime Timers

(Continued from page 21)

tected. All membership information should be kept strictly confidential. Members would be provided with a membership list, but would be free to limit their printed information to a first name (or pseudonym) and a phone number, if they so wish. Fourthly, membership should be limited to gay and bisexual men over 39. If the Chapter members wish, they may invite younger members, who are partners of older members, to join.

The growth of Woody's venture has been outstanding. The success of the Boston chapter soon spawned chapters in other cities, mainly in the US. south and west. In 1990 it spread to Canada. A chapter was started in Vancouver which quickly grew to 250 members. In October 1991, the first convention was held in Province town with 120 members representing some 12-14 chapters. An

(Continued on page 35)

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Prime Timers (cont'd)

informal International Committee was created to encourage development of new chapters and in the next two years the number of chapters doubled. In October 1993 the second convention was held in Vancouver with 250 registrants representing 25 chapters (including four in Canada and two in Australia).

Obviously the rapid growth of Prime Timers indicates that a long-time need in the male gay community is being met, and we in Edmonton can attest to that. During our first twelve years together my partner and I lived a private, closeted life, making few gay friends and avoiding the gay activities of the younger set. When I was approached by Woody Baldwin to start a group in Edmonton I resisted the invitation. I felt that the attitudes among social and political leaders in the Province was not gay friendly. However I eventually agreed

to try. We had our first meeting in October 1992, and a successful year followed. We now have a membership of 65-70, a solid programme of activities, and my partner and I have gained many close gay friendships in Edmonton which would not have happened were it not for Prime Timers.

It would appear that even in Alberta the senior gays are now in the mainstream of gay life. There is no reason for any senior gays or bisexuals to feel they are lonely outsiders. All they have to do is to send their name and a phone number to Edmonton Prime Timers, Suite 1093, 11444 119th Street, Edmonton, T5G 2X6, and one of us will be in touch to offer friendship, support, and information. We address this message particularly to senior gays in Calgary where a Prime Timers chapter has yet to be formed.

Norman H.

Visions of Yesterday

(Continued from page 29)

youth remains within, and can only be harnessed with proper perspective of life, love, and self-worth. Not only to yourselves, but to those who may possibly care.

I quickly finished up my cup of cappo, picked up my books, and went over to their table. Leaned over the youth of my admiration and softly whispered, "May you grow to not only love yourself, but each experience you live, and each person you share yourself with. Life is that of awareness and appreciation, and you my friend have a lot to be aware of, and appreciate, take care". Then briskly walked out of the diner into the evening spring breeze. I had to retire early this evening, for I had to write my final exam of my fourth year of university. Age is not only chronological, but of mental perspective.

.....lost within desperation, in a space of undefined time, I have learned that what one may hold dear, may never fade. Becoming the sole essence of what we seek in the present and future, one repeats a course of desired experiences for the sole purpose of hopefully reliving the unforgettable past.

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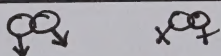
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GayBlade

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — Egads! Empress Nelda has been captured by the forces of homophobia and is being held deep in a dungeon by an evil lord. Only you and your ragtag collection of gays, drag queens, lesbians and muses can save the empress from the motley crew of evil televangelists, rednecks, neo-Nazis, FBI probes and jocks roaming the dungeon's corridors. Welcome to the world of GayBlade, billed as the world's first computer fantasy role-playing game for gay and lesbian adventurers. GayBlade is the cornerstone product of the fledgling RJBEST company, which has begun shipping out the first editions of the Macintosh game to selected stores in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington. "This game gives lesbians and gays — and straight people — a chance to strike back at homophobia from behind our computer screen," said Ryan Best, the 30-year-old developer of the game. Best and its creative director, John Theurer, modeled the Macintosh game after Dungeons & Dragons board and computer programs that require players to form a rescue party and enter a fantasy world in search of adventure and worldly riches. Players enter the GB Tavern to put together a team that can include gays, drag queens, lesbians or muses, each with their own unique powers. Along with the normal arsenal of magic spells and mystical items for sale at the game's Magic Boutique and general store, GayBlade characters also

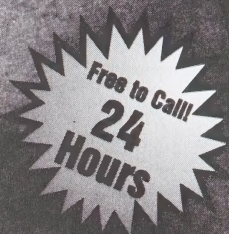
can purchase a variety of unique weapons to save Empress Nelda, such as press-on nails, mace, blow-dryers and purses. Protection is afforded by buying aprons, leather jackets, tiaras and, of course, condoms. The litany of evil characters roaming the 13 levels and 1,300 rooms of the dungeon include Evil Popes, Queer Bashers, Crazy Zealots and Homophobic Cops. They are led by Lord Nanahcub, which spells Buchanan backwards: a not-so-subtle jab at conservative columnist Patrick Buchanan, who was a Republican candidate in the 1992 presidential race and has been an outspoken critic of homosexual rights. Since the game takes a decidedly political tone, the company said it will donate a portion of the proceeds from each sale to an as-yet-undecided gay and lesbian charity. While GayBlade is the company's first product, RJBEST is not waiting to analyze the impact of its game. Best said the company is in the process of developing two more mainstream computer games that will include lesbian and gay characters but not be geared to the homosexual community. "We hope to infiltrate the mainstream game market and subliminally educate people that it's OK to be different and OK to be unusual," Best said. GayBlade has been sent to selected stores but is primarily available through the mail. The \$40 Macintosh package can be purchased by writing RJBEST, 5214-F Diamond Heights Blvd., Suite 701, San Francisco, Calif. 94131.

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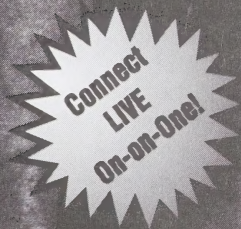
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